

Mission Statement and Performance Measurement Report for FY 2016-17

MISSION STATEMENT

As set forth in the Hudson River Park Trust's enabling legislation, the Hudson River Park Act, Chapter 592 of the 1998 Laws of New York, the mission of the Hudson River Park Trust is to encourage, promote and expand public access to the Hudson River, to promote water-based recreation, and enhance the natural, cultural, and historic aspects of the river from Battery Park City to West 59th Street in New York City for residents and visitors to the area. The Trust has authority over the planning, construction, operation and maintenance of Hudson River Park.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

While residents and workers in and around the West side of lower Manhattan may be the primary benefactors, the benefits of Hudson River Park (the "Park") extend to all stakeholders including the people of the City of New York, the State of New York, local employees and tourists visitors from across the region, the country and the world.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT REPORT

1. Plan and Design the Park

Hudson River Park Trust staff, architects, engineers and landscape architects have worked together with local community members to identify specific programs and elements for the piers and upland areas in each community. The Park was designed to provide active and passive recreation including children's playgrounds, recreational fields, comfort stations, small food concessions, boathouses, classrooms, opportunities for boating and cultural event spaces, among other uses. As development continues, areas to be designed will undergo similar planning and collaboration with local groups.

Presently, Pier 26 is a focus of our efforts, and in 2016-17, the Trust completed concept design of the pier and presented it to Community Board 1, which received the concept very favorably. Design Development is now under way. Also in the Tribeca area, the Trust continues to work closely with Clarkson University and its partners to advance planning of the future "estuarium" at Pier 26. Celebrated architect Rafael Vinoly has been developing a design concept for the estuarium building pro bono; the building will function within the park landscape. Finally, the Trust has received several grants to support planning of science and education-related design enhancements supporting Pier 26 and the estuarium.

At Pier 40, the Trust successfully closed on a \$100 million dollar sale of unused development rights from the park to an inland property, pursuant to the intent of the Hudson River Park Act which allows such sales in accordance with local zoning. The Trust has committed to use the proceeds from the sale for critical pile repairs needed to continue supporting the 15-acre pier structure and the recreational and commercial uses it supports. Design of a comprehensive pile

repair program for the 3,600 piles supporting the structure is under way. This work is vital towards ensuring the long-term integrity of this essential recreational and financial park asset.

In FY16-17, the Trust also worked closely with Friends of Hudson River Park, its Playground Committee and Community Board 4 on a comprehensive redesign of the popular Chelsea Waterside Park Playground. Thanks to support from Friends and Council Member Corey Johnson, funding for this important work is now in place, and construction will start in September 2017.

2. Construct the Park

As of 2017, approximately 77% of the park is built or undergoing construction. In 2016, the Trust commenced construction on Pier 54; however, subsequent litigation forced a halt to that construction. Now that permits have again been issued by regulatory agencies, the Trust expects construction to resume in FY18.

Nearby, the Trust completed the first two phases of a new over-water pedestrian platform and adjacent bikeway improvement between the Gansevoort Peninsula and 14th Street as part of a federally funded transportation grant. An associated cross-walk project, located on City and State property to the west, is currently being designed by the State Department of Transportation with funding support from the City.

Construction is currently well under way on the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of Pier 57. This project is being funded privately by the building's developers, which are also paying rent to help support the park's operations.

In 2017, the Trust also began the large and complex task of repairing a collapsing historic bulkhead near Morton Street in the West Village. Following design, permits were secured from regulatory agencies, as well as sign-off from the NYS Office of Historic Preservation. Construction is now under way.

3. Operate and Maintain the Park

The Trust continues to operate and maintain the Park at a high level so that it remains a community asset and economic generator while simultaneously serving the millions of New Yorkers and tourists who use it annually. The Trust routinely reviews the maintenance needs of the Park and updates its security and maintenance plans accordingly based on available budgets.

4. Provide Free and/or Low Cost Public Recreational, Educational and Cultural Opportunities

The park's athletic facilities are a heavily used resource for residents and visitors. The ballfields at Pier 40 alone experienced more than 240,000 uses in 2016-17, while the tennis and basketball courts, skate parks, four non-motorized boathouses, and playgrounds throughout the park drew tens of thousands more.

Hudson River Park hosts free and low cost environmental education programs for school groups, summer camps and the general public, using the Hudson River waterfront as its classroom. In 2016, the Trust's Environmental Education Department 460 school and camp programs throughout the year, which together with other environmental programs, served 27,000 children and adults.

In 2016, the Trust organized another successful season of free summer events. Over 52,000 people from New York City and the tri-state area came to the Park to enjoy a total of 85 family, fitness, music, movie and dance events. These 85 free events took place throughout the Park and included favorites such as the 2nd Annual Hudson River Dance Festival, two Hudson RiverStage music and food festival events, the 17th Annual Blues BBQ, RiverFlicks and Sunset Salsa. The Public Programming staff works long hours in every kind of weather to make these events safe, successful and in many instances, simply spectacular.

5. Promote Environmental Stewardship and Enhance the Estuarine Sanctuary

The Trust continues to take its mandate to protect and enhance existing marine habitat the 400 acres of estuarine sanctuary seriously, through multiple partnerships and approaches. Chief among these are the full roster of environmental enrichment programs for school groups, summer camps and the general public. These programs include Big City Fishing & River Science workshops, Hudson River Nature Walks, and teacher trainings.

In 2016, the Trust again planned the Submerge! NYC Marine Science Festival in partnership with the New York Hall of Science and dozens of science, research and policy groups to educate the public about the Hudson River and surrounding water system. Attendance doubled from 2014 with 7,000 attendees. Participants could steer an underwater remote operated vehicle, tour a marine science research vessel or watch a live SCUBA dive in the Hudson River.

In addition, the Trust also continued to partner with numerous scientific organizations on environmental monitoring and restoration initiatives on oyster restoration, water quality monitoring and other research initiatives. For example, the Trust is an active partner in a scientific consortium called the Hudson River Environmental Conditions Observation Network, maintaining a monitoring station in the park that transmits real-time data about river conditions necessary to a diverse audience including scientists, boaters, and educators.

6. Establish an Estuarine Sanctuary Management Plan

The Hudson River Park Act required the Trust to prepare an Estuarine Sanctuary Management Plan (ESMP) which has provided guidance on balancing the needs of various park purposes while monitoring and enforcing park policies, laws and regulations to manage and protect the sanctuary. The ESMP is composed of goals and objectives in four key areas: resource protection, public access and recreation, education and environmental research. The Trust continues to work vigorously in each of those areas and has commenced the process of updating and revising the ESMP.

7. Promote economic development and tourism in the state of New York

Annually the Park is visited by millions – both New Yorkers and visitors to the City. As the number of Park amenities increases and as the types of tenants and permittees grow more diverse, such as the location of offices for Google at Pier 57, the number of visitors and opportunities for economic growth will continue to emerge.

8. Operate on a model of economic self-sufficiency

The Trust seeks to ensure the Park's future financial self-sufficiency by developing the Park's remaining major commercial nodes and growing its annual revenue. The Trust continues to work closely with Friends of Hudson River Park, a non-profit dedicated to raising money for the Park, including a current initiative to raise funds to complete a major playground reconstruction in the Chelsea Waterside section of the park.

In 2016-17, the Trust was able to secure funding for the critical pile repairs require at Pier 40 in return for selling 200,000 square feet of unused air rights from Pier 40. This is the first important step in the ultimate plan to redevelop Pier 40 for a mix of public recreation and park-compatible commercial development. While redeveloping Pier 40 will still be a costly endeavor given the pier's scale, the scale of the redevelopment can be reduced now that any prospective developer will no longer need to spend \$100+ million on pile repairs.